

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CU-04 COME-00 BIB-01 IO-13
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 EB-08 XMB-02 OMB-01 /094 W
-----115249 240746Z /20

O R 232100Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4641
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION USNATO
USIA WASHDC
USDEL MBFR VIENNA
USCINCEUR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 BELGRADE 0496

FOR EUR/RPM/ AND EUR/SOV FROM USDEL CSCE

E O 11652: N/A
TAGS: CSCE, OCON
SUBJECT: BELGRADE CSCE -- DAILY HIGHLIGHTS, JANUARY 23

SUMMARY: IN ANOTHER FRUSTRATING DAY, SOVIETS CONTINUED TO
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BLOCK MEANINGFUL DRAFTING AND TO EMPHASIZE THEIR INTENTION
TO DOWNGRADE SIGNIFICANCE BOTH OF BELGRADE MEETING AND ITS
CONCLUDING DOCUMENT. MEDITERRANEAN GROUP DID GET
PROVISIONAL CONSENSUS ON SINGLE, FACTUAL SENTENCE THAT
GOES BEYOND TEXT IN SOVIET DRAFT, BUT SOVIETS HAVE YET
TO SHOW FLEXIBILITY ON SUBSTANCE, IN ANY DRAFTING
SESSION. END SUMMARY.

1. BASKET ONE (PRINCIPLES) -- IN VIRTUAL REPEAT OF JANUARY 19 EXPERIENCE, SOVIETS LET WEST PUSH ROMANIAN CHAPEAU LANGUAGE ALMOST TO TOP OF HILL -- AND THEN KICKED IT BACK TO BOTTOM BY REFUSING CONSENSUS AS CLOCK STRUCK SIX. IN EFFORT TO OVERCOME EARLIER SOVIET OBJECTIONS, ROMANIAN RE SIMPLIFIED AND SHORTENED HIS DRAFT PARAGRAPH, DURING COURSE OF DEBATE, SOVIETS INDICATED CLEARLY THEIR INTENT TO DOWNGRADE SIGNIFICANCE OF BELGRADE MEETING, SAYING THAT THEY PREFERRED TO USE "PARTICIPANTS IN THE MEETING" OF A SIMILAR FORMULA RATHER THAN "THE PARTICIPATING STATES" (BELGRADE 432). WHEN CHALLENGED BY WESTERN AND NEUTRAL/NON-ALIGNED SPEAKERS, THEY REPLIED THAT REGARDLESS OF FORMULA USED FOR THIS PARTICULAR POINT, SOME WAY WOULD HAVE TO BE FOUND TO MAKE CLEAR THAT BELGRADE MEETING IS AT MUCH LOWER LEVEL THAN HELSINKI AND THAT ITS CONCLUDING DOCUMENT IS POLITICALLY MUCH LESS SIGNIFICANT THAN FINAL ACT. WESTERN AND NEUTRAL/NON-ALIGNED DELS CHIDED SOVIETS FOR LACK OF FAITH IN BELGRADE MEETING, BUT AT END SOVIET REP WITHHELD CONSENSUS FROM EVEN FIRST CLAUSE OF ROMANIAN LANGUAGE SAYING MORE TIME WAS NEEDED TO CONSIDER ALL IMPLICATIONS.

2. BASKET TWO -- DISCUSSION OF TEXT BASED ON BM/27 CONCERNING SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED FIRMS CONTINUED INTO SECOND DRAFTING SESSION. IN REPLY TO FRG DRAFT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROPOSED FOR CONSIDERATION AT JANUARY 20 MEETING, SOVIETS SUBMITTED FOLLOWING TEXT:
BEGIN TEXT

BEGIN BRACKET. TO UNDERTAKE END BRACKET FURTHER EFFORTS AIMED AT WIDER PARTICIPATION OF SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED FIRMS IN TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION. END TEXT. FRG AND OTHER WESTERN REPS RESPONDED THAT SOVIET FORMULATION WAS ACCEPTABLE AS INTRODUCTORY WORDING ,BUT INSISTED THAT IT WAS INADEQUATE IN ITSELF. FRG REP PROPOSED THAT TEXT SUBMITTED BY SOVIETS BY FOLLOWED BY OPERATIVE PORTION OF HIS TEXT, BEGINNING WITH WORDS QUOTE AND TO THAT END... UNQUOTE. SOVIETS, CONTENDING THAT FRG TEXT WAS REPETITIVE OF FINAL ACT AND AMENDED ITS MEANING, REFUSED TO ACCEPT FRG PROPOSAL EVEN IN BRACKETED FORM. DEBATE ENDED INCONCLUSIVELY. IT IS UNCERTAIN WHEN THIS SUBJECT WILL BE TAKEN UP AGAIN.

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SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 EB-08 XMB-02 OMB-01 /094 W
-----123732 242117Z /41

O R 232100Z JAN 78
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3. IN INFORMAL MEETING AFTER ADJOURNMENT OF DRAFTING
SESSION, FOLLOWING UNDERSTANDING WAS REACHED ON HOW
TO ALLOCATE REMAINING 13 DRAFTING SESSIONS TO COVER
OUTSTANDING PROPOSALS: COMMERCIAL EXCHANGES - THREE
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SESSION: INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION - TWO; SCIENCE,
TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT - TWO; OTHER AREAS- TWO;
PREAMBLE - TWO; SUMMING-UP SESSION - ONE. HOPE WAS
EXPRESSED THAT THIS TIMETABLE WOULD INSTILL DISCIPLINE

INTO NEGOTIATIONS AND PERMIT TIMELY COVERAGE OF ALL OUTSTANDING PROPOSALS. US AND SOVIET DELS ATTENDED THIS MEETING, ARRANGED BY FINNS, ALONG WITH APPROXIMATELY 15 OTHER DELS. IN PRIVATE REMARK, SOVREP STATED THAT ALTHOUGH HE WAS WILLING TO AGREE TO SUCH A TIMETABLE IT WAS NOT RPT NOT ON THE BASIS OF ANY NEW EXPECTATION THAT GENERAL AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED ON NEW PROPOALS.

4. MEDITERRANEAN -- SOVIETS AND THEIR ALLIES DEMONSTRATED OBVIOUS RELUCTANCE TO MOVE BEYOND THEIR DRAFT CONCLUDING DOCUMENT LANGUAGE. THEY RAISED PROCEDURAL BARRIERS TO DISCUSSION OF INFORMALLY CIRCULATED FOUR PARAGRAPHS, ESSENTIALLY FACTUAL AND NON-CONTROVERSIAL INTRODUCTION TAKEN BY MALTESE FROM THEIR OWN AND THE SIX-STATE "COMPROMISE" PROPOSALS. DESPITE SOVIET INSISTENCE THAT DRAFTING GROUP SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON OPERATIVE PORTION OF PROPOSALS ON TABLE, HOWEVER, IT WAS POSSIBLE TO WRITE INTO NOTEBOOKS INITIAL BRIEF PARAGRAPH STATING THAT THE PARTICIPATING STATES HAD EXCHANGED VIEWS ON THE MEDITERRANEAN AND TAKEN NOTE OF THE INTEREST OF THE NON-PARTICIPATING MEDITERRANEAN STATES.

5. BASKET THREE -- EASTERN DELS PERSISTED IN STALLING TACTICS IN INFORMAL SESSION OF DRAFTING GROUP DESPITE WESTERN EFFORTS TO ELICIT CONSTRUCTIVE DISCUSSION BY MOVING TO LESS CONROVERSIAL CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL NON-PAPERS. SOVIET, GDR AND CZECH DELS SHOWED NO INCLINATION TO COMPROMISE ON ANY POINT OF THEIR OWN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAPERS AND GENERALLY ECHOED THEME OF NECESSITY TO BREAK DEADLOCK BY ACCEPTANCE OF SHORT DOCUMENT ON MODEL OF SOVIETS'S BM/70. IN RESPONSE TO SOVIET REP'S REQUEST FOR COMMENT ON SOVIET DRAFT, US REP DESCRIBED SHOCK AND DISAPPOINTMENT AT ITS LACK OF DETAIL. HE SAID IT SEEMED TO OFFER LITTLE MORE AFTER TWO AND HALF YEARS OF FINAL ACT THAN EXPRESSION OF "READINESS TO COOPERATE" ON GENERALITIES AND EXHORTATION FOR STATES TO "HIRE MORE POLIC." US REP ADDED THAT DRAFTING PROCESS CAN ONLY BE IMPROVED BY RECOGNITION THAT "MUCH MORE" MUST BE INCLUDED IN FINAL DOCUMENT, SINCE OTHERWISE PROBLEM OF ITS DISSEMINATION COULD BE RESOLVED BY PRINTING ENTIRE TEXT ON POSTAGE STAMP. NORWEGIAN REP REMINDED SOVIETS THAT MEETING HAD SHOWN PROGRESS AND COOPERATION TO DATE HAD NOT BEEN SATISFACTORY.

6. DESPITE SUBSEQUENT PROPOSAL BY US REP THAT BRACKETED PARAGRAPH OF BELGIUM NON-PAPER ON EDUCATION BE ENTERED IN NOTEBOOKS, SESSION ADJOURNED WITH STILL NO AGREEMENT

ON EVEN SINGLE SENTENCE OF CONCLUDING DOCUMENT.
GOLDBERG

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Message Attributes

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